

Part 4: Checks with the DBS, Police Disclosure Unit and Police Safeguarding Multi Agency Hub (MASH)

Local Guidance:

[Appendix 4.1: Non-Urgent Request to Dorset Police For Information](#)

SCOPE OF THIS CHAPTER

This chapter gives guidance about which process should be used by Children's Services to complete information/background checks with the Police. This document should be read in conjunction with the Inter-Agency Safeguarding Procedures - Guidance on Consent, Confidentiality and Information Sharing.

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1. Introduction

A number of recommendations were made by Sir Michael Bichard following his enquiry into the Soham murders and the trial and conviction of Ian Huntley. The recommendations were aimed at creating an environment where information is used efficiently and fairly to minimise risk of harm to the most vulnerable members of society. The Police have developed systems which improve the way information is shared and managed by forces across the Country, and there is a commitment to sharing information between agencies for the protection of children.

2. Process

The following table describes which section of the Police information should be sought from in normal circumstances; however, it is not possible to give guidance to cover every circumstance. Practitioners must make a judgment on the facts of the individual situation, and where there is a conflict of views; resolution should be sought via the respective line managers in the agencies concerned.

	Reason why information is being sought	Contact
1.	As part of s47 enquiries	Police Safeguarding Multi Agency Hub (MASH)
2.	Immediate placement of child(ren) (i.e. Within 24 hours and consents obtained)	Police Safeguarding Multi Agency Hub (MASH)
3.	All other placements of children (including privately fostered children/kinship placements AND consents obtained) BEFORE child placed	Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
4.	All other placements as in 3 above where child ALREADY placed (at point of notification to social care)	Police MASH followed by DBS

5.	Application to adopt/foster	DBS
6.	Application for employment	DBS
7.	Urgent staff safety issue where visit required within 24 hours	Police MASH
8.	All other staff visiting issues	Police Disclosure Unit
9.	Allegations against people who work with children – contact via Local Authority Designated Officer	Police MASH
10.	Child subject to a Child Protection Plan	Police MASH

All requests for disclosure to the Dorset MASH should be made secure e mail to **MASH@dorset.pnn.police.uk**

All requests for disclosure to the DBS should be made in accordance with current DBS procedures.